

Sunday 25th April 2010. 10.30am.

BUILDING: OUTREACH: BELONGING x17.- MT PLACE IN GOD'S HOUSEHOLD.

Hebrews 1: 1, 2 and 3: 1 – 6.

In the past, God spoke to our ancestors many times and in many ways through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us through his Son. He is the one through whom God created the universe, the one whom God has chosen to possess all things at the end.

FIRM FOOTINGS: the last 2 weeks we have thought about firm footings. We have discussed the importance of digging down to Jesus – *Hebrews 1: 1, 2 (4:3)* tell us that he is the Creator of the universe and also we have talked about being ready for the return of Jesus. Jesus Christ is as we see our Alpha and Omega in this building plan of God. (Jesus the “2 book ends” of human history on this earth). He is also everything in between – the period between is called by the writer to the Hebrews “TODAY” (*3: 12 – 14*). *Hebrews* is written to a group of Christians who were facing serious opposition and are in some danger of abandoning their faith. The Writer is reminding them of the need to stay firm in Jesus as they come under pressure. They need to understand that they are part of the great plan of God and that they have moved on, progressed to what Moses spoke about as future promise.

God is at work throughout the World and amongst all the peoples of the world and not just the tiny nation of the “Hebrews”. God is building throughout the earth and working with people of all nations. He calls us to be global Christians – being a part of a church like VPBC with an international fellowship and mission concerns makes that relatively easy but never the less it is all too easy to be overwhelmed by the pressures of our small world and time zone.

New wall clocks in the Worship Space: you will hopefully have noted that we now have 8 new wall clocks in the worship space and hopefully more to come. They are there to make us focus our attention on different parts of the world where we have interest and regularly pray for. At each clock/time station you will see the country and the capital city and also a verse from the Bible to do with TIME:

- Bulgaria
- Italy
- Uganda
- S. Africa
- Jamaica
- Nigeria
- New Zealand
- Zimbabwe
- Philippines
- Brazil
- Japan

(I am hoping that you will bring in photos perhaps of that place, or your family, or people we are praying for and that you will add prayers or Scriptures so that others can use these as prayer stations with information to pray for provided). *There is obviously a need to add other clocks of the places we have important links with and pray for fairly regularly: Bangladesh, Burma, Haiti and so on.*

Hebrews3: 1 – 6.

The writer calls us to **Think of Jesus, whom God sent to be High Priest of the faith we profess.** The writer is convinced that *we must hold on all the more firmly to the truths we have heard, so that we will not be carried away (2:1; 4:14; 6: 19,20 Hope in Christ is our anchor point).*

The phrase **God's House** describes not just one church building but the whole work of God – all that God is building in the earth. It refers to **God's household** and not just a dwelling place. "Household" refers to the spiritual community or household God is building – as well as the rebuilding of the heavens and the earth. So when God's house is referred to (vv2,5,6) it is talking about everything that God is building.

The writer to the Hebrews is here using the idea of Moses working in God's household. To these Hebrews Moses was a key figure as the agent of God who brought the Law. He is a builder in God's House but God owns the House and is the builder of all things. *V4 Every house is built by someone but the builder of all things is God.* (He is creator). The writer declares that the builder is greater than the building – and God is the builder.

Moses was a builder in God's House – infact he had the role of Chief Steward – God placed him in charge of the whole community of God's people (Numbers 12;7). But Moses is only the Chief Steward of his day in charge of the community of God's people – Jesus is the Son in charge of Building!

Moses is the servant, the steward and Jesus is the Son. The writer is refocusing their attention on Jesus – in just the same way that we need our attention focussed on Jesus. In the past there have been many prophets sent by God – but in these days God has spoken in his Son.

V5 Moses was FAITHFUL in what he built and he spoke of the things God would do in the future.

V6 CHRIST is the Son over God's household – we are that household if we hold firm until the end.

Moses was an agent of God but CHRIST is over all God's household – over all that God is building. Moses is a servant (therapon-personal service freely given) in God's household (and so are we) but Jesus is the SON!

The writer is addressing "brothers and sisters" in the same household and calling us "holy children" – we may be from different nations but we are what God is building – his household. What is more we have a **VOCATION - - a high/ heavenly calling (v1) and** therefore need to focus on Jesus.

All members of this household (us and all Believers) **have a vocation and we need to be focussed on Jesus. We are servants and stewards . Like Moses we are called to be FAITHFUL. (At the time of Moses there were many who were not faithful – and did not believe and so they didn't enter the promised land.**

The letter to the Hebrews is the clearest expression of the need for us to persevere even under pressure and opposition.

We are part of the household and called to serve voluntarily (emphasis of Hebrews: therapon). The Son Jesus is in charge but we have a vocation and a job to do in God's building plan.

Do I recognise my place in the scheme of things – my place in relationship to God the Builder of all things – and in working for Jesus with others? It is this understanding that will enable me with God's strength to build – ready for the return of Jesus!

I will want to say: *Maran-atha: even so come LORD Jesus.*